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School Committee Minutes 02/14/2013

Approved by the Arlington School Committee March 14, 2013

*Arlington School Committee
Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 14, 2013
6:30 p.m.*

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476*

Present: Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Vice Chair, Ms. Leba Heigham, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Ms. Cindy Starks, Mr. William Hayner and Mr. Paul Schlichtman.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Dr. Laura Chesson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Linda Hanson, AEA President, Eric Cheng, and Erik Lee Student Representatives, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Special Education Director and AAA representative.

Dr. Chesson arrived at 6:41 p.m.

Ms. Heigham exited the meeting at 9:40 p.m. and returned at 9:45 p.m.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe recognized the artwork in the School Committee room coming from the Stratton and Thompson School students of Deborah Campagna, Art Teacher. Dr. Allison-Ampe provided a quote from Margaret Atwood.

Public Participation

Mr. Gordon Jamieson informed the School Committee that he filed a Warrant Article for 2013 on state and local regulations and laws/bylaws to firearms.

Arlington High School Program of Studies

Ms. Mary Villano, Interim Principal of Arlington High School asked the School Committee to approve the new courses for 2013-2014 which included the following: Mathematics (Add Quantitative Reasoning), World Language (Add: Latin Language and Culture 1A and 1b, Italian 1, Mandarin4), Visual Arts (Add: Painting, Mixed Media and Sculpture, Delete: Ceramics), Science (Add: Gr. 10 option AP Physics), Family and Consumer Science (Add: Bake Shop Science)

Mr. Thielman noted the District Accountability, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Subcommittee unanimously approved the changes Ms. Villano is proposing tonight to the School Committee for 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Thielman motioned to move that the Arlington School Committee approve the Program of Study changes for Arlington High School 2013-2014 submitted by Arlington High School Principal, Ms. Villano, seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Central Registration Plan, Goal I-4

Dr. Bodie said she sent all incoming Kindergarten Families a letter today informing them on our registration process and how it differs from previous years. The Registration will be held at the high school on specific dates with Leilanie D'Agostino. The steps to complete the Kindergarten registration process is found on Arlington Public Schools website, www.arlington.k12.ma.us.

Ms. D'Agostino presented a power point presentation on the Elementary Central Registration plan which included approved redistricting guidelines.

Dr. Allison-Ampe welcomed Representative Sean Garballey and Representative Rogers to the meeting who came tonight to say the look forward to working with the Arlington School Committee.

FY 14 Budget Presentation

Dr. Bodie said she met with the Budget Subcommittee and reviewed the budget priorities. Dr. Bode said that all Budget documents can be found live on our website. The Budget Overview showed mandatory contract increase, full staffing at Thompson School, professional development on focusing on Common Core State Standards and new MA Teacher Evaluation System, support for Math instruction at elementary and middle school levels, improve funding for substitute salaries, curriculum materials for math and literacy updated, administrative support district wide, provide some teaching staff reserves due to enrollment increases. The proposed restructuring included reducing district wide Teaching Assistants to more licensed staff, reduce teaching positions not supported by enrollment, reduce one reading specialist, and shift some professional and technical services funding from Special Education to elementary principals. A Summary of FY 14 Budget changes included net increase to revenue of \$1,984,508.

Ms. Johnson also presented the School Committee members with analysis of substitute pay with various increases and the impact to the budget.

After the presentation, the committee was given a chance to ask questions from each section of the proposed budget. The questions committee members touched based on were why we are reducing Teaching Assistants, what revenue from building rentals are we receiving and what is the night watch budget for, where is special education and homeless revenue going, town or school? And what are the grant reductions going to be, and questions on facility supervision, heating and maintenance at the middle and high school. Ms. Hanson questioned funding on printing and for copying. Dr. Bodie and Ms. Johnson assured the committee with answers to each question and said licensed professionals will continue to be in the classrooms with students, rental revenue received will go back to schools, but the homeless money goes to town first then back to the Town Appropriation Revenue budget to the schools Ms. Johnson continues to monitor all budgets, grants and revenues, and will continue to keep the School Committee informed of all changes.

Update on Thompson Rebuild

Dr. Bodie encouraged everyone to drive by Thompson to see the effects of the rebuild, and said everything is going well and continues to be in line with the timeline. The subcommittee meets once a month and her hope is that all delivery of furniture will take place in July, therefore having classrooms ready for teachers in August. Dr. Bodie informed the committee that the Books for Bill fundraising has been very successful.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Bodie expressed her gratitude to Deb D'Amico for her exemplary leadership at Hardy for the last seven years and with sadness accepts her retirement letter. Dr. Bodie said she will set up a screening committee in March to begin the search for a new Dallin Principal. Dr. Bodie said she will bring forth the Special Education Director candidate for them to approve and vote at the next meeting and should decide on the high school principal position next week.

Dr. Bodie wanted to thank the Public Works for all their efforts with the snow removal. Dr. Bodie wanted to reiterate that parents should use their own judgment on their children's safety for getting them to school, if snowing. Kathy said that she would be sending out a survey to staff after vacation, surveying them on making up some of our snow days by either working half a day on Good Friday, a Saturday, or a time during April vacation week. Kathy said the students will return to school on the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 9, 2013. She also said that all elementary principals unanimously approved the adoption of Tools of the Mind, and announced the Scholastic Awards in Art, as well as reported on the successful Model Congress trip by Kerry Dunne and students to Philadelphia during the storm.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Pierce said he and the subcommittee with the help of Lucille Nicholson presented the First Readings of the following health policies, JLCA Physical Examinations of Students, JLCB Immunization of Students, JLCC Communicable Diseases, and JLCD Administering Medicines to Students. The subcommittee will continue to work on the Superintendent's Evaluation timeline policy.

Budget C. Starks nothing to report.

Community Relations Ms. Heigham said she would like to hold a meeting Thursday, February 21, 2013 to discuss Dashboard, Teacher conference dates and School Calendar.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment & Accountability J. Thielman said he will set up a meeting in March.

Facilities W. Hayner will set up a meeting.

Legal Services Review Chair will schedule a meeting in the next few weeks.

Chair K. Allison-Ampe provided the February 1, 2013 synopsis from the Long Range Planning meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Hayner moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: *Approval of Warrant # 13110 Dated, January 24, 2013, Total Warrant Amount \$585,094.36, *Minutes for Approval: none, *Approval of Facing Racism student Weekend Retreat, March 8, 2013 – March 10, 2013, *Approval of Italy Trip, April 17-24, 2014 for all high school and community members, and *Approval of ELL Coach Job Description, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Ms. Heigham reported on all correspondence received.

Letters:

- Copy of letter from Massachusetts Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly, 4th Middlesex District
- Copy of letter regarding "RETELL Update, Overview, and Next Steps," from Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, dated August 27, 2012
- Copy of letter from Leslie Sontag Krasnoff, dated January 17, 2013
- Copy of letter to Mr. David Ardito from Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Chair of the Arlington School Committee, dated January 25, 2013
- Copy of memorandum regarding "Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for English Language Learners," from Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, dated January 30, 2013
- Copy of letter from Patricia A. Plagge, dated February 5, 2013
- Copy of letter regarding "Address Changes: Assessors Block Plan No. (38 & 39) Lot," from Vincent Kilcommons, Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works, Town of Arlington, dated February 5, 2013
- Emails:
 - "Matt Coleman – Happy News," from Laura S. Chesson, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent Arlington Public Schools, dated February 4, 2013
 - "Condolences," from Karen Tassone, dated February 5, 2013

- “condolences,” from Anne Albertazzi, dated February 5, 2013
- “Fwd: 2/1/13 Long Range Planning Meeting Synopsis and Associated Docs,” from Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager of Town of Arlington, dated February 6, 2013
- Other Documents:
 - “MASC Bulletin,” from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, dated January 2013
 - “Education Alert,” from Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP, dated January 2013
 - “legislative bulletin,” from Stephen J. Finnegan, Esq., Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc., dated January 25, 2013
 - “Arlington Public Schools Announces Special Education Director Finalists,” from Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, dated January 30, 2013
 - “Arlington Public Schools Announces High School Principal Finalists,” from Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools, dated February 5, 2013

Executive Session

Dr. Allison-Ampe moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, Collective bargaining may also be conducted, and to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Mr. Pierce.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Mr. Thielman moved to adjourn at 9:58, p.m., seconded by Mr. Schlichtman.

Voted: 7-0

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee*